Subject: American Numismatic Association
Convention in Montreal (1909)

New York Numismatic Club

1909?

From the

Campaign Committee

Of The

New York

Numismatic Club

Re The

American Numismatic Association

Convention

FROM
THE CAMPAIGN COMMITTEE
of the
New York Numismatic Club *Re* The American Numismatic Association Convention.

DEAR SIR:

While this is a circular letter addressed generally to members of the A. N. A., we could not write individually with greater force or intensity of purpose if we addressed every member of the Association singly.

As a committee of the New York Numismatic Club chosen for the purpose we herewith solicit your votes for the gentlemen named on the enclosed proxy for the offices in the American Numismatic Association set opposite their names.

Feeling that you have a right to good and sufficient reasons for such an invitation, we take pleasure in laying the facts as we perceive them, impartially before you.

Our choice of officers to be elected at the forthcoming Montreal Convention has been dictated purely by our views of the best interests of the A. N. A.

If we were to honor every man within its ranks whom we feel entitled to recognition, we should have more officers than members. Our selections, however, have been based upon a combination of ability, availability, adaptability and desirability on the part of the gentlemen named.

The American Numismatic Association born as a subscription list to a tiny monthly magazine and maintained in that subordinate relation during many years, has outgrown its swaddling clothes.

The science of Numismatics is increasing in favor by leaps and bounds throughout the country, attracting so many strong and learned men to its service and representing so many thousands of dollars of invested capital that it is realized that the machinery of government which has carried us so far has become puerile and inadequate—in fact absolutely unsuited to our present needs.

Whereas it has been in the past the habit to elect various good fellows to office in the A. N. A. principally because they were good fellows and to have a yearly convention somewhere which has been mostly a vacation "junket" with more excursioning and dining than Numismatics in it—it is now perceived that we are confronted with a requirement of serious practical business administered at the hands of the ablest

men we can find willing to devote time to this work without respect to personalities or distinctions of locality.

These are a few of the things which we think ought to be brought about in the A. N. A. at as early a date as possible.

The regulation of A. N. A. business once a year at a Convention which is always so far away from the habitation of the majority of our members that comparatively but a small proportion is able to attend it and which is given almost wholly up to festivities is deemed inadequate.

We seek some change in the order of procedure which will permit much business hitherto reserved for Convention consideration during long periods to be promptly transacted by Committees of the A. N. A. subject to the approval of President and Board of Governors.

We seek to encourage the development of as many local Numismatic Clubs as possible and again to see such Clubs form State Numismatic Societies which will take particular cognizance of the tokens and private issues of their own sections, the whole to constitute a large and tremendously effective A. N. A. which will send State delegates to Conventions and so secure representation to the entire country.

We desire to formulate some "act of adhesion" to the A. N. A. to be signed by all present and future members of the Association by which each member pledges himself to certain ethical rules of conduct and to exact the same from others, agreeing to retirement at the motion of a qualified committee, without recourse to any other tribunal, for such charges as may be sustained against him. This seems to us the only way to protect our officers in dealing with such undesirables as may develop. At present, abuses of confidence on the part of unworthy A. N. A. members are not properly dealt with, because no individual dares take the personal responsibility. The question of incorporation is a grave one in this connection.

We desire the complete elimination of Dealers and Numismatic Merchants from the executive ranks of the Association.

This measure is not an action against Dealers in Coins, but one which is eagerly sought by the MAJORITY of Coin Dealers who are members of the Association **for their own protection.**

They do not think that certain dealers should be accorded prestige withheld from others as to the manner in which such privileges have been exploited for trade rivalry and advertising purposes on occasions in the past have given rise to grave

disagreement and not a little scandal.

We welcome the reputable dealer to our membership in his character as a gentleman and coin lover, knowing full well that there are few American dealers who are not ardent and learned Numismatists.

While recognizing the great improvements in typographical appearance and quality of matter embodied in the Official organ of the A. N. A. under its present publisher and editorial conductors, we believe that the A. N. A. is the first consideration and its organ the second.

With the A. N. A. official organ in private hands it seems to us as if in return for the subscriptions of the entire body, the Association should, through a Press Committee consisting of competent members who are both journalists and Numismatists, be guaranteed a partial supervision of the policy of its organ which chould guarantee the furtherance of its best interests and impartiality of spirit. Furthermore, that such Committee be empowered to prepare in any year a proposition for a change in its existing or creation of a new official organ in perfect accord with the sentiment of the Association members.

Our nominee for President of the American Numismatic Association:

Mr. Frank C. Higgins, F. R. N. S., of New York City, appeals to us as a man of sufficiently broad Numismatic and general culture and of adequate business capacity to direct energetically and faithfully the prosecution of a high aiming and up building policy. (See back numbers of Numismatist, July, 1902, February and November, 1904).

A cosmopolitan in the broadest sense of the word, who is on record as a faithful worker for the A. N. A. long prior to his return from almost twenty years residence in foreign lands. Mr. Higgins stands as highly among the great numismatists of Europe as in New York City, where he presides over the youngest but greatest and most enthusiastic body of collectors ever gotten together in the United States, the New York Numismatic Club. As a numismatic writer he possesses an International reputation.

Feeling that whatever opposition may develop to Mr. Higgins' election will be due to misunderstanding, we will be glad to correct such whenever it is called to our notice. We append appreciative testimonials to his worth which are in our possession over the signature of the persons quoted.

Our recommendation for the First Vice Presidency of the A. N. A. is Mr. W. W. C. Wilson of Montreal, Canada.

In this connection permit us to state that we are convinced that we owe it to our Canadian brothers who are so gener-

ously supporting an International American Numismatic Association instead of seeking an independent Canadian organization as they might, that our first Vice President should be a citizen of the Domioion of Canada nominated henceforth by themselves. This will prove that we are big, broad and cultured enough to appreciate the honor done us by a sister nation and to respond in a courteous and diplomatic manner.

Mr. Wilson is one of the foremost manufacturers of the Dominion of Canada, engaged, singularly enough, in the same line of business as the late Sir John Evans, K. C. B., President of the Royal Numismatic Society of Great Britain and also the late lamented Dewitt S. Smith of Lee, Mass. His interest in coins and medals, in numismatic literature and numismatic affairs is intense and untiring, and his collection of war medals alone is the largest and finest in America, and ranks with the best in Europe. He has all the enterprise, progressiveness and enthusiams of the young man that he is, and if he is unmarried, he is at least wedded to our science. Mr. Wilson will prove one of the strongest candidates on our ticket.

The nomination of Mr. H. O. Granberg of Oshkosh, Wis., for the Second Vice Presidency, is one of the several striking proofs of our fair-minded desire to honor the numismatic genius of the West. For years he has been regarded one of the greatest collectors in America—one of th "big fellows"; and all regard this straightforward,

honest man as a numismatist of the best type. His great desire to preserve the numismatic relics and history of the early days of gold discovery in the West, has led him to specialize in privately struck gold coins, and his collection of these is such as only patient endeavor can gather together. His collection of American silver coins is thought by many to be unequaled. A mining engineer, himself, and an owner of gold and silver mines, he turns very naturally to these metals in their most useful and valued form—that of coins.

W. F. Dunham of Chicago, is a deservedly popular man, of fine personality and genial disposition. Like Mr. Granberg, he is a great collector—his specialties being United States and Canadian coins. He has served as president of the Chicago Numismatic Society. His election to the office of Chairman of the Board of Governors will give general satisfaction.

D. A. Williams, of Baltimore, Md., our candidate for Treasurer, has faithfully served the Association in this capacity. His position as a general officer of the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad specially equips him and the relations of his office to that of the Secretary renders his residence in the same city with Mr. Duffield fortunate, and makes his election desirable.

Mr. Frank G. Duffield, of Baltimore,Md., has made a good Secretary and is to be thanked for consenting to retain his post rather than to be congratulated. The po-

sition is one of such hard work that it proves the zeal and disinterestedness of the occupant. Mr. Duffield is the one man upon whom all factions seem to be perfectly agreed.

We recommend the retention of practically all of our present Board of Governors with the exception of one who, while an esteemed member and friend of most of us, is disqualified by reason of our policy concerning the holding of office by coin dealers.

NOTE.

Lest there be any misapprehension about this matter of "proxies", permit us to suggest that it be the conscientious duty of each member of the A. N. A. this year, to mail his proxy to the person he designs to vote for him filled in with the names of the candidates for whom he desires to vote. It should be filled out in ink so that it will be voted as you design. It will be our object to secure a total change in this system for future operations.

Fill it out yourself. If you have sent one proxy to be voted and reconsidered, you have the right to send another and the **last dated one will alone be counted** at the Convention election.

Any one of our Committee will be glad to receive your proxy, but for convenience

sake, we would suggest that such as are kindly accorded us be sent to Mr. Albert R. Frey, 1083 Lincoln Place, Brooklyn, N. Y.

Cordially and Fraternally Yours,

The A. N. A. Campaign Committee of the
NEW YORK NUMISMATIC CLUB.

E. H. Adams,
40 Fourth Ave., Brooklyn, N. Y.

Thomas L. Elder,
32 East 23rd Street, N. Y.

Albert R. Frey,
1083 Lincoln Place, Brooklyn, N. Y.

Herbert Niklewicz,
89 North Oxford St., Brooklyn, N. Y.

WHAT A FEW OF THE THINKERS THINK OF CANDIDATE HIGGINS.

"I see no reason not to support your Candidacy for the Presidency of the A. N. A. There is no doubt either but that the name of W. W. C. Wilson of Montreal will be received favorably for 1st Vice President."

P. O. Tremblay, Montreal.

"I wish to thank **you** and other members of the New York Numismatic Club for the hearty reception given me on March 12th."

Henry Chapman, Philadelphia.

"Please accept my heartiest congratulations and sincere wishes for your success which I am sure you deserve."

B. Max Mehl, Fort Worth, Texas.

"I accept the nomination for 2nd Vice President and share your views."

H. O. Granberg, Oshkosh, Wis.

"I am pleased to note that it is your wish to put an end to the dealer control of the A. N. A. which would surely put an end to the A. N. A. if continued."

Stephen K. Nagy, Philadelphia.

"I sincerely hope you will be elected our next President."

J. C. Mitchelson, Tariffville, Conn.

"I am glad there is going to be a contest as it will do the A. N. A. a lot of good by stirring up the members and giving them a little chance to think on who they will vote for."

Howland Wood, Boston.

"You are the champion hatchet burier, overflowing with diplomacy. You have a mighty fine disposition, old man, and no one appreciates it more than I do."

Farran Zerbe (Mch. 1st).

"You will make no mistake in giving him your ballot at the Montreal Convention in August."

Thomas L. Elder, New York.

"I shall cast my vote for Mr. F. C. Higgins, for President of the A. N. A. He will appeal very strongly to those who have read his articles."

F. C. Smith, Richland Centre, Wis.

"I believe Higgins to be the man and will vote for him."

Luther B. Tuthill, South Creek, N. C.

"I believe Mr. F. C. Higgins has the widest knowledge and the most progressive ideas of any one in the Numismatic field."

E. Smith.

"I favor your candidacy for personal and other reasons, namely that I think you are the most capable to fill the office with good results to all concerned in Numismatics."

Edgar H. Adams, New York.

"The nomination of Frank C. Higgins for President of the A. N. A. pleases me, for I regard his as a man of liberal and progressive ideas, thoroughly enthusiastic for the best interests of Numismatics. If the East and West should take turns for the honors of office, as Mr. Zerbe suggests, then the East comes now, for Mr. Zerbe is more of a western man than an eastern man.

It is Mr. Higgins' turn now, and he should be elected."

Vernon Burgar.

"Mr. Higgins' reputation is not national, but international. He is a numismatist in the truest sense of the word. Need any more be said?"

A. R. Frey.